

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 829

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to commend Jessica Markwood upon receiving a Prudential Spirit of Community Award and for her meritorious service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to salute those young citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as emerging community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Jessica Markwood is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Jessica, an esteemed resident of Old Hickory and student at Donelson Christian Academy, has achieved national acclaim for her exemplary record of volunteer service, gaining recognition as a 2008 Prudential Spirit of Community Award Distinguished Finalist; and

WHEREAS, this prestigious award, presented by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), honors young volunteers across America who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to serving their respective communities and encourages all young Americans to contribute to their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards is part of a broad youth-service initiative by Prudential that includes a youth leadership training program administered by the Points of Light and Hands On Network, a free booklet of volunteer ideas for young people offered through the Federal Citizen Information Center, and a Web site that offers countless support to young volunteers; and

WHEREAS, this program is the largest youth recognition program based solely on volunteer service and all public and private middle and high schools in the country, Girl Scout councils, county 4-H organizations, American Red Cross chapters, YMCAs, and volunteer centers are eligible to nominate a student or member for a local award; distinguished finalists and state honorees are chosen from the local honorees based on personal initiative, creativity, effort, impact, and personal growth; and

WHEREAS, Jessica Markwood was chosen as a Distinguished Finalist in the program in recognition of her laudable efforts as a key member of a church group that traveled to southern Mississippi to help repair and restore homes, yards, and a church devastated by Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, Miss Markwood picked up debris, cleaned yards, and salvaged items worth saving; she spent hours scrubbing rust and dirt off valuable china; and

WHEREAS, she installed drywall and applied primer in homes ravaged by the hurricane; in addition, she helped clear the land for a new church and aided in its rebuilding process; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Nancy and Mike Markwood, Jessica Markwood has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, as a Distinguished Finalist, Jessica will receive an engraved bronze medallion at a locally held ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Miss Markwood's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Jessica is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and she epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, the success of this State, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of young people like Miss Markwood, who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend and honor Jessica Markwood as a 2008 Distinguished Finalist in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, recognizing her outstanding record of volunteer service, peer leadership, and community spirit and extending our best wishes for her continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.